

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1689

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, BF
SUBJECT: TRAFFICKING IN THE BAHAMAS

REF A. STATE 180994 B. NASSAU 1640

SUMMARY. EMBASSY BELIEVES BAHAMIAN POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE ENFORCEMENT AGAINST ILLEGAL NARCOTICS IS SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO WARRANT JOINT USG-GCOB PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT, INCLUDING PROVIDING TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT. WE WOULD WELCOME VISIT BY WELL-INFORMED, PREPARED INTER-AGENCY SURVEY TEAM TO HELP DESIGN AND PLAN COOPERATIVE EFFORT. END SUMMARY

1. WE HAVE FOUND VERY USEFUL AND WE APPRECIATE CATALOGUE

OF SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED IN REF (A). THEY HAVE FORMED BASIS FOR OUR EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHERE WE SHOULD GO FROM HERE IN NARCOTICS MATTERS.

2. WE BELIEVE THE GCOB IS POLITICALLY COMMITTED TO ATTEMPTING TO STOP THE ILLEGAL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. THIS BELIEF WAS FURTHER CONFIRMED DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S RECENT MEETING WITH MINISTER ADDERLEY (REF B) WHEN THEY DISCUSSED THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

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3. MINISTER ADDERLEY BELIEVES THAT THE USG SHOULD ALREADY BE IN A POSITION, BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE GAINED OVER TIME THROUGH THE JOINT ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS OF THE US AGENCIES IN MIAMI AND THE BAHAMIAN AUTHORITIES, TO DISCUSS WITH THE GCOB IN DETAIL WHAT ITS NEEDS ARE AND WHAT WE ARE PREPARED

TO DO TO HELP. WE TRUST THAT THE APPROPRIATE AGEN-
CIES AND OFFICES IN WASHINGTON AND MIAMI ARE PULLING
TOGETHER THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE SO THAT A
WORKING LEVEL SURVEY TEAM AS DISCUSSED IN REF (B)
CAN ARRIVE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SPECIFICS. A FINAL
REPORT BY THE TEAM WOULD DEPEND ON THE RESULTS OF
THEIR CONVERSATIONS HERE WITH US AND WITH
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. PLEASE ADVISE ON COMPOSITION,
GOALS AND TIMING OF TEAM. DEPENDING ON THIS INFOR-
MATION WE WILL DECIDE WHETHER FURTHER DISCUS-
SIONS WITH ADDERLEY ARE NECESSARY BEFORE A TEAM CAN
COME.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEA OFFICE
IN NASSAU IS A KEY ELEMENT IN A JOINT PROGRAM. A
DEA OFFICE WOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR OWN COMMITMENT.
IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE CATALYST AND CONNECTION
FOR THE BEST USE OF BAHAMIAN RESOURCES, CONTACTS,
AND INTELLIGENCE AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER GOVERN-
MENTS' LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS (COLOMBIAN FOR EXAMPLE).
BEFORE RAISING QUESTION OF DEA OFFICE WITH THE GCOB,
WE NEED A CLEAR INDICATION AS TO WHAT THE PROSPECTS
ARE FOR A DEA OFFICE IN NASSAU; WE ARE AWARE OF THE
PROBLEMS OF CEILINGS, COMPETING PRIORITIES, MODE,
ETC. IN OUR ESTIMATION IT WOULD NOT DO AT THIS
TIME TO DISCUSS A DEA OFFICE FORMALLY WITH THE GCOB
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AND THEN LATER HAVE TO TELL THEM THAT AN OFFICE IS
MANY MONTHS AWAY. TO DO THIS MIGHT RAISE QUESTION
OF OUR COMMITMENT AND SERIOUSNESS.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING ILLEGAL USE OF ABANDONED AIR-
STRIPS, THE GRAY AMENDMENT, CASH SUPPORT FOR NARCOTICS
AGENTS, AND BAIL AND BOND PROBLEMS. WE AGREE THAT
ALL OF THESE AREAS NEED ATTENTION AND WE ASSUME WE
SHOULD HAVE SOME SUCCESS IN MAKING SOME ARRANGEMENTS
WITH THE GCOB. WE SUGGEST THAT THE SURVEY TEAM BE
PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS IN DETAIL.

6. THE GENERAL QUESTION OF NARCOTICS IS IN THE
FOREFRONT OF OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC THINKING HERE.
NARCOTICS CASES AND TRIALS ARE FRONT PAGE
STORIES. ON JULY 28 THE AMBAS ADOR SPOKE TO A NASSAU
ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON ON THE SUBJECT OF NARCOTICS.
HIS SPEECH RECEIVED WIDE-SPREAD AND PROMINENT MEDIA
COVERAGE.

7. PLEASE ADVISE CONCERNING MAKEUP OF AND YOUR PER-

CEPTIONS OF MISSION OF SURVEY TEAM. IT IS MOST
IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE NO MISSTEPS WITH REGARD TO
OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH AND COMMITMENT OF MINISTER
ADDERLEY. HIS CONTINUED AND WHOLEHEARTED COOPERA-
TION IS ESSENTIAL TO THIS PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE WE
SHOULD GET STARTED ON THIS NOW, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ADDERLEY. AN
EARLY ARRIVAL BY A SURVEY TEAM WOULD BE A GOOD START.
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